

# SAFETY MESSAGE

## Personal Safety is our #1 priority

### Hand Safety

#### Think about hand safety

Hand accidents remain one of our biggest problems as employees catch fingers between drums, between drums and walls, or doorways or sides of trucks.

We must make a major effort that gets our people thinking about hand safety.

Where ever you work, your hands are one of your most important “instruments.” Yet, over a quarter of a million people suffer serious (and often disabling) hand injuries each year.

By recognizing hazards, following established safety guidelines, and using protective guards, shields, gloves, and other personal protective devices as needed, you can save your hands from injury and yourself from unnecessary disability.

#### Recognize hand hazards

One of the most serious, yet common causes of hand injury is the use of unprotected or faulty machinery and equipment.

Failure to use push-sticks, guards, kill-switches, or to follow appropriate lockout procedures are among the leading industrial hand hazards.

Wearing jewelry, gloves, or loose-fitting clothing around moving parts can also lead to injury.

Chemicals, corrosives, and other irritating substances can cause burns and skin inflammation unless appropriate hand protection is used.

Temperature extremes and electrical hazards are other common causes of hand injuries.

In addition, constant, repetitive motion (as in assembly-line work or painting) can cause undue stress on the wrists and hands unless protective measures are taken.

#### Hand protection checklist

Be alert to potential hand hazards before an accident can happen. The following list provides a guideline for hand safety that can help you protect your hands from injury or disability.

- Watch for unguarded pinch points.
- Always use push-sticks, guards, shields, and other protective devices when appropriate. Do not remove guards.
- Use brushes to wipe away debris.
- Inspect equipment and machinery before and after tasks to make sure it is in good operating condition.

- Disconnect power and follow established lockout procedures before repairing or cleaning equipment.
- Never wear gloves, jewelry, or loose clothing when working with moving machine parts.
- Use the appropriate personal protective equipment (gloves, guards, forearm cuffs, barrier cremes) for the specific task you are doing.
- When wearing gloves, be sure they fit properly and are rated for the specific task you are doing.
- Select tools designated to keep wrists straight to help avoid repetitive motion/overuse problems.